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body, that could go out and get into touch with what the employers of special libraries want and give them that, then the A.L.A. would be doing a great thing for special libraries. These employers are organized into great trade associations. Many of them have research committees and bodies, and laboratories. If you could connect with those employers, and give them what they want in the way of special library facilities, you would be doing a wonderful thing; but do not try to sell them what is not saleable, and that is method and procedure. Keep that for yourselves. Take that as a matter of

course. Of course we have got to be proficient in procedure and method, but do not try to sell it because it is not saleable.

As a matter of fact I think it takes a good deal of nerve on the part of the A.L.A. at this late date to ask what it can do for special library work, when there is a well-organized association, much younger than the A.L.A., attempting to do it,—doing what the A.L.A. has not done, maintaining a magazine of its own to serve its special interests, to get into touch as much as it can, with the employers, with the market of its constituents.

### A.L.A. PUBLICATIONS FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

By ANDREW KEOGH, *Librarian, Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut*

#### SECOND GENERAL SESSION

The A.L.A. is predominately a public library organization. Its history, its membership, the papers read at its meetings, leave no doubt on this point. The existence of a College and Reference Section shows that scholarly things are not the Association's main concern. The establishment of a public library section would be considered absurd. This description of our organization is not only accurate in fact, but agrees with our professional theory, for it is the establishment and development of libraries for the people at large that is the outstanding characteristic of American library activity.

It is therefore proper that in the publications of our Association the emphasis should be laid on helps to readers in popular libraries. The \$100,000 gift by Mr. Carnegie as an endowment for publication stipulated that the income should be applied "to the preparation and publication of such lists, indexes, and other bibliographic and literary aids as would be specially useful in the circulating libraries of the country." The *A.L.A. catalog* of 1904 was characterized by Mr. Dewey as "the most important and valuable single book that could be made to aid in the great public library movement," and he defined the word *best*, as applied to the books selected for inclusion in that catalog, as meaning best for the general reader. The *Booklist*, which is in a sense a continuation

of the *A.L.A. catalog*, is meant to serve "particularly the smaller and medium sized libraries of the country." It is true that some of our publications are scholarly in character, but having little popular appeal they have a limited circulation, and must be published at a loss, or at least at a risk of loss. Our foreign lists, for example, while meeting a real need, cannot be sold in numbers large enough to pay the cost of production.

The college and university libraries are greatly interested in the provision of bibliographic aids of a scholarly character. The A.L.A. publications of this kind are much used in colleges, and most of them owe their existence to the collaboration of members of college faculties. Samples of similar bibliographies that might well receive encouragement and support from the A.L.A. are in the report made at Colorado Springs of the Special Committee on Publishing Activities. Another Carnegie should be found who would do for the scholarly libraries what he did for the popular ones, and if a large amount cannot be secured small sums might be had for specific purposes. The money should be used for the college rather than for the university. The college is for instruction, for the transmission of knowledge, for the understanding of the past and of the present. The university is for research, for the ad-

vancement of learning, for the widening of the bounds of knowledge. A bibliography, for college use would be useful to a wide circle of readers outside college walls; one prepared for investigators would have an extremely limited appeal, either in or out of a university.

While waiting for the endowment we can stimulate the production of bibliographies by suggesting things to be done, by helping in the preparation and publication of them, and by using them and seeing that others use them when issued. We have done much by professional co-operation, but we should not fail to exploit for our profession the brains and purses of others. We may, for example, encourage the inclusion of bibliographies in masters' theses and in doctoral dissertations, and we may bring the best of them to the attention of private publishers, university presses, research organizations and institutions, trustees, and individuals likely to be interested in publication. Mr. Meyer's *Literature of Shakespeare* was prepared for the Drama League of America; Mr. Wells's *Manual of Middle English* was published by the Connecticut Academy; Miss Bartlett's *Mr. William Shakespeare* was published under the auspices of the Yale Elizabethan

Club; various lists have been published by the Institute for International Education. Current co-operative projects full of helpful suggestions are Professor Craigie's plan for a supplement to the *New English dictionary*; and the *Dictionary of American biography* proposed by the American Council of Learned Societies.

Scholarship funds might be used for the preparation of bibliographies, including the expense of investigation in other libraries, and for the publication of the finished work. The master's degree might be given, so far as a final thesis is concerned, for the calendaring of documents, for the making of digests or indexes of books of importance, or for a discriminating selection of books on a subject, with annotations giving the scope and limitation of each book, and references to others that correct or supplement it. The rare bibliographical dissertation that not only incorporates discoveries of importance, but by sound criticism throws light on disputed literary or historical or other problems, should receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The Yale Graduate School is willing to give degrees for bibliographic work equal in quantity and quality to any other treatment of a subject.

#### A.L.A. PUBLICATIONS FOR POPULAR LIBRARIES

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##### EXTRACTS. SECOND GENERAL SESSION

In considering A.L.A. publications from the popular library point of view let us think for a minute who we are who man and "woman" popular libraries. We are the great bulk of the membership, the common people of the A.L.A. For the most part we are not library school graduates. We have "picked up" our profession mostly by experience, with much supplementing from library conferences, summer courses and from our professional journals and publications. Some of us practice our profession in large cities, but many of us work in towns and villages far from large cities, frequently in the lesser eddies along the great stream of human intercourse. The conditions of our daily work tend to spread our knowledge very thinly

over a vast number of subjects. We know a little about a great many things but not much about any one thing. We can hardly hope to be thorough specialists on any subject save the general one of making our "plant" of greatest value to its community. What then is our need which A.L.A. publications can fill?

Our need is for the abundant help of specialists, the help of those who have worked rather thoroughly some special field of our profession. A.L.A. publications consequently are of the greatest value to us when they enable us to gather the fruit of our specialist colleagues' work, when they enable us, not specialists, to render to our patrons service based on the work of specialists.